

well as arguments and pleading and bonding with others, all these emotions and the troublesome times tear apart Jeremiah's fragile temperament and fling themselves upon the pages of his prophecy.

Jeremiah is realistic and bold as he declares sin inevitably brings its own sorrow. People who go after empty idols become empty themselves. We are all transformed for good or bad by that which we desire.

Lord, because this prophet will not evade the honest emotional reaction of what is going on around him, You make him a guide for Your people now caught up in war. Although Jeremiah is never far removed from the agony of people, hope for him is always stirring just beneath the surface of the barren Earth.

The word of the Lord endures forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 188a, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

Mr. YOUNG, Florida.

Mr. LATOURETTE, Ohio.

CONGRATULATING OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in my congressional district for winning first place at the "Florida We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. This civics competition ensures that students understand the history and the philosophy of our U.S. Constitution

and our Bill of Rights. It is an important program that aids students in understanding their rights and responsibilities as American citizens.

Lourdes Academy, the reigning national champions, will be coming to Washington this month to compete for the national title. Please join me in congratulating the students of Lourdes Academy and especially their teacher, Rosie Heffernan, on their outstanding achievement and wishing them much success in the national competition.

SUPPLEMENTAL LEAVES CRITICAL AREAS UNDERFUNDED

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak against the supplemental bill proposed by the Bush administration.

While Democrats strongly support the immediate passing of whatever is necessary to support our troops, the administration's war supplemental appears to leave critical areas severely underfunded.

Under the bill, there would be no money, no money, to provide communication equipment for first responders, leaving many local police, firefighters, and emergency workers unable to communicate with each other during an emergency.

There would be no money, no money, for homeland security grants, despite the Coast Guard's latest report that they are short almost \$1 billion to meet port security needs in this year alone.

This bill also leaves nuclear security needs amounts unmet, providing only 7 percent of the \$380 million which his own Secretary of Energy identified as an urgent homeland security requirement.

This bill is bad for the economy, and it is bad for our Nation's first responders. Underfunding critical programs and operations puts our homeland at risk.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWN PAYMENT ACT

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Committee on Financial Services will begin hearings on President Bush's visionary plan to extend the dream of homeownership to tens of thousands of low-income families and individuals across our Nation.

As I have consulted with housing advocates throughout my district, I have repeatedly heard that a great number of low-income Americans could meet a monthly mortgage payment were it not for that initial obstacle of the closing costs and down payment associated with the traditional residential loan.

H.R. 1276, the American Dream Down Payment Act, removes that barrier for an estimated 40,000 low-income families and individuals every year.

Madam Speaker, the extension of affordable quality housing opportunities to every American is a moral imperative for a decent, compassionate society. H.R. 1276 represents a powerful step toward this goal, providing thousands of men, women and children across our Nation with the dignity, stability and economic empowerment of homeownership.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET SHORTCHANGES AMERICA

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, the budget shortchanges the security of cities and towns across America. The next terrorist we catch might be caught by the FBI, but it is more likely that they will be found by local law enforcement, like the routine traffic stop in April of 2001, where a police officer pulled over none other than the 9-11 ring leader Mohammed Atta.

It is not clear that the 9-11 attacks could have been prevented by a traffic stop, but what should be clear is that even if our government has information on would-be terrorists, local law enforcement is still out of the loop.

The President and the Republican leaders in Congress both ignore this issue in their budgets. While we spend billions to tear down and rebuild Iraq, the Republican budget shortchanges the local police officers, firefighters, and other first responders who are America's first defense against terror.

In my own district, the community of Culver City, California, is right next to the Los Angeles International Airport. They need our support with first responders.

KEEP NETHERCUTT-KENNEDY AMENDMENT ON SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, this week we will be voting on our supplemental appropriations bill to help partially fund the war in Iraq. An important amendment, which was unanimously agreed to by the House that is on that bill, was called the Nethercutt-Kennedy amendment, and it has to do with the fact that the Congress has voted not to allow Germany, France, Syria and Russia to share in American taxpayer-funded reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

The idea behind this is that Russia, France, Syria and Germany have not been on our side and, in many ways, helped accelerate the war in Iraq by seeming to side with Saddam Hussein. We believe that if the U.N. Security Council and these members were unified against the weapons of mass destruction and the regime of Saddam